(iv) That the unit area of insurance should be brought down to the village level and all crops including perennial crop should be covered under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

Food and fodder development in Karnataka

320. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted schemes for strengthening of State farms, establishment of Fodder bank etc., at an estimated cost of Rs. 93 lakhs;

(b) if so," what is the present stage of consideration of this proposal; and

(c) by when the State Government is likely to receive the sanction of the schemes and release of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka has been sanctioned an amount of Rs. 13.55 lakhs for fodder bank and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste for utilization during current financial year against the proposal submitted by them for fodder bank (Rs. 21.00 lakhs) and enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste (Rs. 50.00 lakhs) in the year of 2002-2003.

Drought relief price for rabi wheat

321. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had paid Rs. 10 per quintal as drought relief to farmers over and above the Minimum Support Price for rabi wheat, as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices; and

(b) if so, the details of amount paid to drought affected States for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government has announced payment of one time special drought relief of Rs. 10 per quintal

, over and above the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 620 per quintal for wheat for the crop year 2002-03 to be marketed in 2003-04, as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

(b) The one time special drought relief is not payable to the drought affected States but to the farmers selling their produce to the Government agencies throughout the country.

Foodgrains/fruits production in H.P.

322. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target fixed for foodgrains/fruits production during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government in this behalf; and

(c) the details of investments proposed to be made in the production of foodgrains/fruits in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Planning Commission has not fixed targets for the foodgrains and fruits production during the 10th Five Year Plan for the State of Himachal Pradesh. According to the draft 10th Five Year Plan (2002—07) document of Himachal Pradesh the targets in respect of foodgrains and fruits production are 1875 thousand metric tonnes and 750 thousand metric tonnes respectively.

(b) The steps taken by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh include development of modern facilities for the propagation of plant material to the farmers, increased used of biotechnology for-the fast multiplication of the plant material, improved water management through scientific methods of on farm water harvesting, conservation and application for making best use of scarce water resources to develop water harvesting facilities and install drip irrigation system; utilization of the integrated pest management technology; diversification of horticulture with emphasis on nut crops, olive, cherry, pear, stone fruits etc., utilization of information technology as an important tool for horticulture extension, development of horticultural crops especially for food processing like the wine varieties of grapes, older varieties of apples etc.